sophisticated cars coming on the roads as a result of joint ventures; and

(c) whether Government have drawn any plan to update the roads and highways of the country in view of these facts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. This Ministry is mainly concerned with the development and maintenance of National Highways only. Five Year Plans and Annual Plans are drawn up for development of National Highways. Improvements are carried out subject to availability of resources. Further, under the current liberalisation process, Government has also permitted private sector participation for the development of roads and bridges on the National Highways.

Installation of Hydro-Desulphuriscr in Madras Refineries Ltd.

2438. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madras Refineries Limited has submitted any proposal to instal a dicsel hydro-desulphuriser to meet the revised sulpher specifications in diesel; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Madras Refineries Limited has submitted for 1st Stage Clearance of the proposal to set up a diesel hydro-desulphurisation unit of 1.8 MMTPA capacity, to produce diesel with a sulphur content of 0.25% wt. maximum, to meet the revised specification. The proposal is under process for 1st Stage clearance.

Revenue earned from speed post

2439. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) The total tonnage carried by speed post in 1993, 1994 and from January to June, 1995 and what was the revenue received in the above period from speed post traffic both within the country and for articles sent abroad;

(b) how many vehicles are earmarked for exclusive work of speed post in Bombay city;

(c) whether they are used for the purpose for which they are earmarked;

(d) whether there have been any deviations in the year 1994 and January to June in 1995; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken and what is the nature of deviations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The total number of speed post articles booked and the revenue realised during 1993-94 and 1995 are as under:—

1993-94

No. of articles booked	Revenue
1,09,34,725	Rs. 50,12,78,624.00

1994-95

1,24,71,957	Rs. 54,17,99,229.00

(b) 23 vehicles are being used exclusively for speed post in Bombay city.

(c) and (d) Vehicles are being used for the purpose for which they are earmarked. There was no deviation in the year 1994 and January to June 1995.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.